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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Ulrich BEGEMANN et al.

Group Art Unit: 1734

Appln. No. : 10/596,071

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop _____
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R § 1.56, and pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents that were cited in an International Search Report conducted on International Application No. PCT/EP2004/053086, which is a foreign counterpart to the above-noted U.S. Application:

- (1) US 6,413,371 B1 issued on July 2, 2002, to AHONEN et al. The International Examiner cited this as an "X" category document (i.e., particular relevance) with regard to claims 1-3, 5, 15 and 16 of the International Application. The International Examiner noted column 4, line 44 – column 5, line 8 and figure 1 as being particularly relevant;
- (2) WO 02/44469 A published June 6, 2002 to Metso Paper, Inc. The International Examiner cited this as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 2, 15 and 17 of the International Application. The International Examiner noted page 13, line

25 – page 14, line 11 and figure 6 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/050517 A1 published March 18, 2004, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited International publication;

- (3) WO 00/55424 A issued to Valmet Corporation, published on September 21, 2000. The International Examiner cited this as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 3 and 5 of the International Application. The International Examiner noted page 5, paragraph 1 – page 7, paragraph 1 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent No. 6,589,388 B1 issued on July 8, 2003 to Nissinen, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited International publication; and
- (4) DE 44 11 987 A1 published on October 12, 1995 issued to Stora Feldmuehle AG. The International Examiner cited this as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 and 3 of the International Application. The International Examiner noted page 4, line 43 – page 5, line 2 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent No. 5,952,091 issued on September 14, 1999 to HORAND *et al.*, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German patent publication.

The following documents were cited in an International Preliminary Examination Report, dated June 8, 2006, conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2004/053086, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the Examiner cited:

- (5) U.S. Patent No. 6,413,371 B1, which corresponds to item (1) above;
- (6) WO 02/44469 A, which corresponds to item (2) above;
- (7) WO 00/55424 A, which corresponds to item (3) above; and
- (8) DE 44 11 987 A1, which corresponds to item (4) above.

Furthermore, Applicants hereby submit the following documents that are discussed in the instant application:

- (9) EP 0 732 446 B1 issued on October 21, 1998. This document is discussed in paragraphs [0003] and [0134] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.
- (10) DE 100 22 087 A1 published November 22, 2001. This document is discussed in paragraphs [0027], [0110] and [0116] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.
- (11) DE 198 41 768 A1 published March 16, 2000. This document is discussed in paragraphs [0028] and [0116] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.
- (12) DE 100 33 213 A1 published January 17, 2002. This document is discussed in paragraph [0065] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.
- (13) DE 101 01 866 A1 published July 18, 2002. This document is discussed in paragraph [0067] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.

(14) DE 100 12 344 A1 published September 20, 2001. This document is discussed in paragraph [0136] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.

(15) "The DF coater - Coating technology of the new generation" p3326 e 03.03 (which includes "Systems for Finishing", Hirofumi Morita). This document is discussed in paragraph [0136] of the instant application, as labeled in the substitute specification.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Also submitted herewith is a copy of the above-noted International Search Report, the International Preliminary Report on Patentability, and a partial English-translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability.

Moreover, copies of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

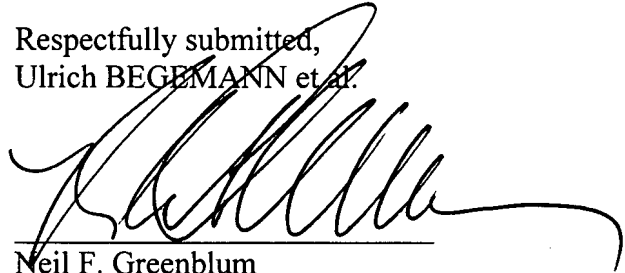
Applicants note that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicants have not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any

fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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